

## Let's Repeal Prohibition

Plans to submit an amendment to the constitution of Oklahoma for the repeal of prohibition unquestionably meets with the approval of The Black Dispatch. The hidden people of this state should unite in one solid phalanx to rid this state of a law which is obnoxious from every angle from which it may be examined.

As we write these lines we know that whiskey can be purchased at this moment in fifty places in the Negro section of Oklahoma City and this is fairly representative of the condition obtaining all over Oklahoma. Every one knows there is a constant flow of tax paid liquor into this state from Arkansas, Illinois and Missouri and that this has been going on for many moons.

Last year officials high up in state government were charged with being in a liquor pay-off racket. This matter has been hushed up and there is possibility that the charges were unfounded, but nevertheless, we the people who sweat and toil paying tribute to government realize that some one is in a pay-off racket or the great flood of illicit whiskey could not continue to flow into Oklahoma.

Right here in Oklahoma City it is generally known that an underworld character has developed into the millionaire class, chiefly through the wholesaling of liquor. Sheriffs and other enforcement officers have been ousted from office in various sections of Oklahoma because they yielded to temptation and conspired with liquor runners.

Added to this wave of lawlessness is the corn whiskey peddler. Thousands of farmers, both black and white, in the sand hills of Oklahoma are operating stills from which gush millions of gallons of moonshine, annually consumed by citizens in the lower income brackets.

In other words Oklahoma has around a half billion dollar business that thrives in this state in spite of the law, unsupervised and untaxed. The truth is that many people who live just across the line from Oklahoma drive into the Sooner state to buy their liquor, because it can be purchased less the state taxes they must pay in their state.

We plan to give considerable attention to this subject during the campaign for repeal because we have in the first instance never believed that government was intended to for the purpose of interfering with individual identity. All sumptuary laws destroy personal freedom rather than facilitate the objective of the individual when he submits to government.

One may read the Ten Commandments from beginning to end to discover that there is only attempt to regulate the behavior of one individual towards another. But government never was originally intended to dictate when a man should go to bed, and when he should wake up. If we continue with our foolish statutes we shall one day be forcing people to eat a government dictated diet and later regulating the bowl action.

Every year we spend thousands of dollars attempting to enforce that which we know we are not enforcing, and we voluntarily turn our back upon millions of dollars in tax money that would be ours were we to tax whiskey and sell it from the streets rather than from the alleys. We swim in whiskey and shout about prohibition.

It is our notion that much of the lawlessness generated in this section develops from the revolt of humanity to government which seeks to suppress freedom of the individual. We visited the federal court recently and there saw white and Negro farmers accused of the sale of liquor. The kindly judge gave most of these illiterate ruralites suspended sentences and sent them back home to make more whiskey and raise their sons and daughters up in an atmosphere of lawlessness.

A hungry man is always tempted to violate the law. Negroes who reside in the lowest income brackets are therefore placed under more temptation to violate prohibition laws than any other segment of the population. With this in mind the Negro minister should fight for the repeal of prohibition. The Negro minister would not be fighting for repeal in order that his communicants would have the right to drink whiskey, but he would be removing from the black man a great moral strain, which has caused crime to rapidly develop among Negroes.

Just now petitions are being circulated all over Oklahoma. Under the statutes there must be sufficient signers to these petitions before the Governor of the state can call an election. Every black man who has discourse to reason, and who want to assist in the greatest accomplishment possible in 1940, will sign the repeal petitions when they are presented at his door.



Knoxville, Tenn., Journal  
February 13, 1939

Chattanooga, Tenn. News  
May 9, 1939

## South Uses Half Of U. S. Snuff Output

Consumption Increases  
32 Times Since '70

"Snuff consumed in the United States in 1938 was 32 times the quantity consumed in 1870."

With this surprising statement, Barron's, "The National Financial Weekly," last week emphasized a not widely known fact: that U. S. snuff-taking has not only increased amazingly in the last 70 years but that its use has become the foundation of a stable and profitable American industry.

A universal practice during the 18th century, snuff-taking declined at the beginning of the 19th, when it became unfashionable. But from 1870, when U. S. consumption was little more than a million pounds annually, snuff sales mounted steadily, reaching an all-time high of 41 million pounds in 1928. Since 1916 the average annual use has been 38,000,000 pounds.

In 1937, the three major U. S. snuff manufacturers, who provide about 95 per cent of the snuff output in America, had combined assets of \$45,500,000 and a combined net income of \$6,713,474 for the year. Largest of the three is the United States Tobacco Company, followed closely by the George W. Helme Company and the American Snuff Company. Their biggest market is in the South, where more than half of American snuff sales are made.

Chief reason for the snuff industry's comeback seems to be that the powdered, scented tobacco can be "dipped" (placed between the gums and cheeks) by those who cannot smoke at work. Its users, who range from social registerites to Negro field hands, also say that it is good for colds and sinus disorders.

## To Draft City Ordinance On Liquor

City Attorney May  
Ask Commission  
To Hold Up  
Session.

City Attorney Joe W. Anderson said Tuesday morning he may request the city commissioners to adjourn their afternoon session until later in the week to give consideration to passage of a new liquor control ordinance.

Anderson will prepare this new legislation as soon as he is furnished with certain information pertaining to the State's rules governing the finance and taxation features, he said.

"If this information is received in the next day or two, the ordinance can be drafted in a short time," he said. Otherwise, Anderson plans to prepare a general law governing possession, sale and transportation of liquor, suggest the passage of this and later amend it to take care of the other provisions.

He is anxious to prepare the ordinance as soon as possible to avoid embarrassing the police department in enforcement of liquor laws.

The city attorney discussed this new legislation in connection with city liquor cases that have arisen since the ratification of local option by Hamilton County voters last Tuesday.

One of these cases has to do with the Club Fiesta at 109 1-2 East Seventh Street, operated by Elliott Shapiro, and raided last week by city police. Officers charged that they found whisky and charged that it was sold by the drink.

This case is set for trial Friday in City Court, and Anderson said the management would be tried under the old bone-dry ordinance and the 1939 State law. He will be charged with selling liquor by the drink, a violation of the law, and with selling untaxed liquor. The new State law prohibits the selling of liquor except by package.

Club Fiesta also will lose its beer permit if recommendations of the city police captains are carried out at the afternoon meeting

of the City Commission. The license held by the Negro night club, Coconut Grove, at 302 East Ninth Street will also probably be revoked. The police captains were asked by the city board to serve in an advisory capacity in passing on beer applications and infractions of the existing law. They have been meeting Wednesday afternoon, but changed their weekly meeting time to Monday afternoon to prepare their recommendations in time for Tuesday's commissioner meeting.

The officers will recommend issuance of licenses to Ross Shankman, 1417 Carter Street; Justano Pica's Little Wonder Lunch Room, 518 East Ninth Street; Lewis Banks, 301 Chestnut Street, and Morris Gill, grocer, 806 West Main Street.

Anderson said the new State liquor laws will not necessitate any change in the local beer and light wine ordinance, and that some of the old liquor laws may stand, but that most of the provisions will have to be changed to conform with the new State act.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News  
May 10, 1939

## City Revokes Beer License Of Negro Club

Action Deferred  
On Club Fiesta  
Where Liquor  
Found in Raid.

The city commission decided Tuesday that dancing in what used to be a livery stable, and serving beer, do not mix, and so ordered a taboo on the beer.

This case involved the Coconut Grove Negro Club, high-sounding in name only, located at 302 East Ninth Street. After hearing the testimony offered by Proprietor W. L. Roberts, the board ordered his beer license revoked.

The board deferred action on the police captains' recommendation that the beer license held by the Club Fiesta, 109 1-2 East Seventh Street, be taken up.

The latter action came at request of Attorney Clarence Kolwyck, counsel for Elliott Shapiro, proprietor, and the matter is to be taken up at next week's meeting.

### OPERATED ON BANKRUPTCY

Kolwyck said this particular case is unusual in that the Fiesta Club is operated by the "trustee in bankruptcy," stating that he wanted to confer first with the trustee and to await the outcome of a city court case against his client.

This club was raided last week by the police when they found several bottles of liquor on the premises. Police Commissioner Eugene Bryan said his department had information the Fiesta Club was selling liquor when the raid was staged.

Other beer permits acted on include the Little Wonder, a restaurant at 518 East Ninth Street, operated by Justino Pica, which was approved; Emma Hill, 1518 Market Street, colored, license revoked.

William J. Kirby, 822 East Main Street, approved; Louis Banks, 301 Chestnut Street, approved; Morris Gill, 806 West Main Street, approved.

In the case of Hattie Womack, colored, 3500 Olds Avenue, the police captains' recommendation was that her beer permit be revoked. On recommendation of Bryan the board decided not to take up the license.

Approval of new applications from Mrs. Rose Shankman, 516 Chestnut Street, and Julia Evans, 2901 Rossville Boulevard.

Other matters acted on by the group included:

### EXTEND TAX DEADLINE

Passage of an ordinance to amend the existing one extending time from May 1 to June 1 for moratorium on interest and penalties on back taxes.

Passage on two readings of an ordinance amending the city zone law, rezoning a section at Palmetto and Fort Wood Streets from a "B" multiple dwelling area to an "F" commercial district. James Turner, owner of some property on Palmetto, said he intended to convert it into a Negro apartment house.

Receiving and filing a request from the Chattanooga Electric Power Board asking adoption of a resolution designating the Guaranty Trust Company as the New York paying agency and the Hamilton National Bank here as the local paying agent in the proposed \$13,200,000 power bond issue. (The resolution was not passed.)

Authorizing purchase of two new automobiles and four motorcycles for use in police department. The automobiles will cost \$563.90, including trade-in allowances, and the motorcycles \$551.10 each.

Sevierville, Tenn., Record-Republic  
June 21, 1939

## Beer Committee Swings Into Action

Two Places in Lawrence County  
And One in Nashville Closed.  
Att. General Seeks Padlock Orders.

Nashville, Tenn., June 17,  
(Special).

The Tennessee Brewers and Beer Distributors Committee, dedicated to cleaning up or closing up undesirable retail beer outlets, have swung into action in the field.

At the request of State Director John D. Mosby, padlock processes have been started against two beer establishments in Lawrence County and one undesirable place in Nashville closed its doors rather than stand hearing on evidence produced by the investigator of the Committee.

District Attorney General C. L. Boyd filed petitions to padlock as public nuisances "Breezy Rest" and the Wigwam" on the highway between Columbia and Lawrenceburg and hearing will be held in Circuit Court before Judge W. B. Turner.

The Committee's investigators went into Lawrence County at the request of Attorney General Boyd and presented to him evidence against the two beer outlets with the request from the Tennessee Brewers and Beer Distributors Committee that they be closed as unfit places to dispense beer.

The Nashville establishment was located in North Nashville where Negroes and Whites congregated together and were served by both Negro and White waitresses. It was a breeding place for crime and disorder.

"This is just a start," said State Director Mosby. "We will not let up until we have wiped out this small percentage of undesirable places, whose business



conduct reflects on the whole industry.

"The Tennessee Brewers and Beer Distributors Committee, under the sponsorship of the United Brewers Industrial Foundation, has determined that the brewing industry shall be saved from the stigma cast upon beer by the few, irresponsible, bad actors among the 4,500 Tennessee retailers, the vast majority of whom are law-abiding citizens who are cooperating to this end.

"Our efforts are in the interest of the public welfare and we earnestly seek the cooperation of citizens in general in this movement.

## Alabama Benefits Financially, Socially, Legally By Repeal

COMMERCIAL APPEAL 12-1-39  
MONTGOMERY, Ala.

By The Sale of legal liquor in Alabama is proving a stimulant to the state socially, financially and legally.

W. L. DeVan, Alabama alcoholic administrator, has made an exhaustive survey to marshal conclusive proof that Alabama is benefiting in numerous ways since repeal of its "bone dry" liquor laws. The survey, because of its comprehensive character, is described as one of national significance.

The state now is "wet" in 25 of its 67 counties. The 25 legal liquor counties embrace the state's metropolitan areas and a majority of the population.

### Lists Results

DeVan cites the following outstanding "benefits:"

1. A rebirth of respect for law and legal authority.
2. It has shorn intoxicants of their "lure for the young."
3. Eliminated overindulgence by adults.
4. Marked decreases in arrests for drunken driving.
5. A wholesome effect on juries regarding liquor cases.
6. A stricter "dry" enforcement in antiliquor counties.
7. The financial benefit to the state. (For the year ending Sept. 30, 1938, the state ABC Board put into Alabama's state treasury a total of \$2,865,041.10 and disbursed to the counties and cities another \$982,770.72.)

DeVan asserts the rebirth of respect for law is "general." He adds that "the well-considered judgment of veteran law enforcement officials" supports this contention.

### Respect for Law

"Enforcement officials state that just prior to repeal, continual evasion and flouting of liquor laws had created a disrespect for all laws," the alcoholic administrator explained. "These officials now state that respect for law generally, and its representatives, has been fully reinstated."

Liquor has been deprived of its lure for the young, DeVan said, because "it is no longer listed among the things forbidden and, therefore, surrounded with an aura of fascination that made indulgence a daring adventure outside the law."

"It has eliminated over-indulgence by adults in most instances except, of course, those afflicted with a psychopathic condition requiring special medical and psychiatric treatment," DeVan said.

Regarding marked decreases in drunken driving arrests, the administrator said that "complete official

statistics showing the exact ratio of the decreases are not available, but according to information from an unimpeachable source the reduction has been and is still going on at a steady pace."

### County Control

Repeal's effect on juries DeVan explains as follows:

"Prior to operation of the ABC law, it was extremely difficult at times, if not virtually impossible, to obtain convictions for dry law infractions in counties where sentiment was preponderately wet. In those counties which have since voted wet, juries have become relentless in meting out punishment to bootleggers."

DeVan asserts that "dry" counties now have the "strictest law enforcement of the state's prohibition laws they have every had." He has a field staff of 45 enforcement officers and four supervisors.

"Citizens in each group of counties, therefore, have the kind of laws with regard to intoxicants that a majority want; with the assurance that they will be rigidly and conscientiously enforced."